

NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Thursday, June 9, 2016

A quorum was not present, so the Regular Meeting did not occur. An informal discussion of Open Space issues took place.

I. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Bernadette Conway

Commissioner Sharon Dunning

Commissioner Carol Anest, briefly attended

Town Staff – Absent

Craig Minor, Town Planner

II. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Conway recommended an informal meeting due to the lack of a quorum. Commissioner Dunning was in favor of the decision. Commissioner Conway entertained an informal discussion with guests who attended the meeting for public comment. Commissioner Conway asked that the guests consider offering suggestions for a definition of “Open Space”.

III. Public Comment

David Goodale, 1741 Main Street: Mr. Goodale commented that the Deming Young Farm would be hosting a Silent Auction on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 10-3pm. George Creedy would present a talk about the Revolutionary War and the history. Mr. and Mrs. Goodale would be conducting tours and the proceeds would go to the Deming Young Foundation.

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Mrs. Lyons expressed her happiness that a discussion for an Open Space definition was planned for the meeting. She mentioned the Marcap Property and putting aside money for purchasing land. She stated that the Capitol Improvement Project (C.I.P.) at one time was talking about bonding land, but there was no mention of the Newington Library or Cedar Mountain. She stated that she hoped that Cedar Mountain was still being considered by C.I.P.

Open Space definition:

Commissioner Conway asked Commissioner Dunning for comment and afterward opened the discussion to guests to share what they would like to be considered in the defining of Open Space.

Commissioner Dunning suggested that the designated parcel(s) should not be developed; available for public access and recreational use; not for use of motorized vehicles and it should require limited or no maintenance by the town. The land should retain its natural aesthetic appearance and preserve its environmental value to the community that it serves.

Mrs. Lyons suggested it should be a large parcel of land and concern about zoning for open space. She stated that there is a different tax for zoned space and asked if designated open space would receive a tax break.

Mr. Goodale stated that the Deming Young Farm is designated as Open Space as a large parcel of land and is available for public acquisition. It is available for passive recreation and not for development. He further stated that Deming Young was taken by Eminent Domain and the town of Newington had to pay fair market value for the land. Commissioner Conway stated that the land was already established as a wildlife recreation.

Commissioner made a brief comment about the Newington Land Trust and the constant need to raise funds for it. She also stated that Commissioner Carol Wojtowicz was handling the trust.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Conway tabled approval of the May 12, 2016 minutes until the July meeting due to no quorum present.

V. Old Business

Commissioner Conway stated that she would look into reserving the booth for the Extravaganza. Commissioner Conway was unsure about whether there would be a fee. Commissioner Conway entertained discussion with guest about definition of Open Space.

VI. New Business

Discussions for New Business were tabled until next month.

VII. Committee Member Comments

Commissioner Conway stated that the defining of the "Open Space" was a work in progress and the O.S. Committee would continue to develop a meaningful definition. No additional comments were made.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Dunning moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Conway. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Dunning

Commissioner Sharon Dunning